

Marianas

10
5.2

TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

INFO: COMIWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC

JCS WASHINGTON DC

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

US MISSION TO UN NEW YORK NY

AMEMB MANILA RP

AMEMB TOKYO JA

FROM STATUS LNO 181 C (JUNE 12, 1974)

PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSN ACTION

PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA INFO

COMIWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

STATE FOR EA/ANP, IO/UNP

DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA

USUN FOR AMB WHITE

AMEMBASSIES MANILA, TOKYO *FOR POL*

SUBJECT: POST-MARIANAS IV: REACTION

REF: STATUS LNO 170 C

1. (C) FURTHER TALKS WITH MPSC MEMBERS AND INTERESTED OBSERVERS OF MARIANAS IV CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GIST OF REFTEL TO EFFECT THAT TALKS ARE VIEWED AS CONSIDERABLE STEP FORWARD TOWARD DESIRABLE GOAL OF COMMON-
AGREEMENT
WEALTH WHICH SHOULD BE REALIZED THIS YEAR.
2. (C) MPSC MEMBER PETE TENORIO, WHOSE PENETRATING AND PERSISTENT QUESTIONING, SOMETIMES IN RATHER NEGATIVE VEIN, WAS CONSPICUOUS FEATURE OF MARIANAS IV, VOLUNTEERED COMMENT TO ME IN MY OFFICE JUNE 6 "I FEEL

PRETTY GOOD ABOUT OUR TALKS. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD." HE ADDED A COMMENT THAT PROBABLY DESCRIBES THE FEELING OF MANY AROUND THE TABLE WHEN HE SAID: "WE WORKED SO HARD THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET UNWOUND NOW."

3. (C) TENORIO SHOWED FEELING OF URGENCY TO GET ON WITH NEEDED IMPLEMENTATION OF MARIANAS IV. REFERRING TO THE FEELING OF MOMENTUM WHICH TALKS GENERATED, HE SAID HE HOPED THE COMMITTEES DESCRIBED IN THE TALKS WOULD GET ON WITH THEIR ORGANIZATION AND WORK RAPIDLY AND HE COMMENTED THAT THE DISTAD "NEEDS A SHOVE" IN ORDER TO GET THE CIVIL/MILITARY RELATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OFF THE GROUND. TENORIO EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN HAVING BEEN APPOINTED TO THE LAND COMMITTEE ALONG WITH JOE CRUZ AND BEN MANGLONA.

4. (C) TENORIO'S ENTHUSIASM FOR MARIANAS IV ACHIEVEMENT IS SOMEWHAT TEMPERED BY HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT DISTRICT SURVEY CONTRACT UNDER ACCELERATED CADASTER PROGRAM WAS NOT AWARDED TO HIS FIRM. I COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS A SUBJECT FOR TT AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TO HANDLE (AS I HAD ASCERTAINED) AND THAT HIS FIRM MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUB-CONTRACT WORK ON THE PROJECT.

5. (C) IN CONVERSATION JUNE 10 MPSC MEMBER BEN CAMACHO, WHO HAD JUST BEEN RE-ELECTED TO THE SAIPAN MUNICIPAL LEGISLATURE, SPOKE HAPPILY OF THE MARIANAS IV TALKS AND SAID HE HOPED THAT DURING THE NEXT SESSION "WE WILL ACCOMPLISH AS MUCH AS WE DID THIS TIME."

6. (C) IN DISCUSSION IN MY OFFICE JUNE 7, FELIX RABULIMAN, WHO REPRESENTS CAROLINIANS IN THE MARIANAS, EXPRESSED QUIET BUT UNQUALIFIED GRATIFICATION AT RESULTS OF MARIANAS IV. HE HAS PLANNED MEETINGS WITH CAROLINIAN COMMUNITY NEXT WEEK TO EXPLAIN DETAILS. HE SAYS CAROLINIANS ARE PRETTY WELL AWARE OF WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE, AND ARE ESPECIALLY PLEASED

3.

AT PROSPECT OF MEMORIAL PARK IN MICRO BEACH AREA. HE SAYS THEY WANT MANAGAHA ISLAND TO BE INCLUDED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF MONUMENT THERE MARKING EARLY ARRIVAL OF CAROLINIANS IN NORTHERN MARIANAS. (COMMENT: I SUGGEST THAT AT APPROPRIATE TIME WE SUPPORT THIS DESIRE. TO DO SO WOULD BE WELCOME GESTURE TO CAROLINIAN COMMUNITY AND WOULD MAKE BEAUTIFUL ADDITION, ALREADY ENJOYED BY MANY, TO PARK AREA.)

7. (C) IN FURTHER REFERENCE TO RELATED ACTIVITIES AMONG CAROLINIANS, RABULIMAN TOLD ME THAT TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF FOUR PRINCIPAL CAROLINIAN CLANS ON SAIPAN HAD CHOSEN MPSC MEMBER AND TERRITORIAL PARTY HEAD DR. PALACIOS TO BE THEIR REPRESENTATIVE AND SPOKESMAN IN PLACE RESERVED FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS AT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PALACIOS' MOTHER WAS PART CAROLINIAN, HE ALSO HAS CHAMORRO AND JAPANESE ANCESTRY. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIS CREDENTIALS FOR WHAT IN CAROLINIAN EYES IS PRESTIGIOUS POSITION, INDICATES RESPECT FOR HIS VIEWS AND HIS COMPETENCE IN PRESENTING THEM. THIS MAKES ALL THE MORE SIGNIFICANT PALACIOS' FIRM SUPPORT FOR EARLY MOVE TOWARD SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION (STATUS LNO 166C, PARA. 20).

031600

8(c) I CAME UPON DR. PALACIOS JUNE 11 AT GATHERING OF CAROLINIANS ON BEACH NEAR CHALAN KANOA TO WELCOME TWO OUTRIGGERS AND THEIR CREWS WHO HAD SAILED THE 500 MILES IN TRADITIONAL VOYAGE FROM SATAWAL IN YAP OUTER ISLANDS. PALACIOS WAS OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING HIS HEIGHTENED CAROLINIAN PRESTIGE. HE TOLD ME QUITE SERIOUSLY THAT WHEREAS RABAUIMAN WAS LIKE A PRIME MINISTER TO THE CAROLINIANS IN THE MARIANAS, HE (PALACIOS) WAS THEIR CHIEF OF STATE. COMMENTING ON FULL SWEEP OF POPULAR PARTY IN SAIPAN MUNICIPAL LEGISLATURE ELECTION JUNE 9 (STATUS LNO 177), PALACIOS, SPEAKING AS HEAD OF TERRITORIAL PARTY, ACCUSED HIS OPPONENTS OF CANCELLING REGISTRATION OF TERRITORIAL PARTY VOTERS, MANY OF WHOM, HE SAID, FOUND WHEN THEY GOT TO THE POLLS, THAT THEY WERE NOT ON VOTERS' LIST DESPITE EARLIER REGISTRATION.

8.9(c) A MOST INTERESTING CONVERSATION WAS FAIRLY LENGTHY ONE WITH MPSC VICE CHAIRMAN BEN SANTOS JUNE 10. SANTOS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE LAND CADASTER PROGRAM IN THE MARIANAS IS NOW GOING WELL. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN THE SURVEYORS AT WORK AT FIRST HAND AND THAT PEOPLE CONCERNED WERE PLEASED TO HAVE THIS UNDERWAY. HE SAID ONE OLD MAN EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION AT PROSPECT OF LAND PROBLEM BEING SETTLED, HAD SAID HE WAS "VERY PLEASED WITH THE MARIANAS STATUS NEGOTIATIONS." SANTOS FOUND THE OLD MAN, A NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING CHAMORRO, SURPRISINGLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE TALKS AND PLEASED FOR WHAT HE SAW AS THE BETTER PROSPECTS FOR HIS CHILDREN. SANTOS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THIS IS THOUGHT HELD BY MANY MARIANAS SENIOR CITIZENS.

031601

9 D. (C) SANTOS ALSO SAID THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE RESIDUE OF FEELING OF REGRET, NOT ONLY ON TINIAN BUT ^{ON} SAIPAN AS WELL, THAT OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A NEW VILLAGE ON TINIAN WAS LOST. SANTOS SAID A TINIANESE HAD TOLD HIM "MPSC MEMBERS ~~WOULD~~ ^{WILL} BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LIFE FOR HAVING DEPRIVED VILLAGERS OF THIS CHANCE FOR NEW HOUSES." ^{SPOKESMAN} ~~THEY~~ HAD MAINTAINED THAT RELOCATION WAS NO EMOTIONAL PROBLEM SINCE PEOPLE HAD NO ATTACHMENT TO THEIR VILLAGE SITE. I RESPONDED ALONG LINES OF AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT AT TINIAN PUBLIC MEETING, NOTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN ^{STRONG} EVIDENCE OF CAMPAIGN OF OPPOSITION TO VILLAGE RELOCATION. ^{COMMENT:} SANTOS DID NOT PURSUE THE SUBJECT, BUT HIS REPORT TENDS TO STRENGTHEN LIKELIHOOD THAT WE MAY HEAR MORE OF THIS COMPLAINT AS WE WORK THROUGH THE FINAL DETAILS ON THE LAND ISSUE.)

10. (C) SANTOS ALSO REFERRED TO ^{WIDE} ~~SIDE~~ INTEREST ^{IN} SUBJECT OF EMINENT DOMAIN. I QUESTIONED HIM ON THIS POINT, AND HE ASSERTED THAT PEOPLE DID INDEED UNDERSTAND WHAT TERM MEANS. HE SAID OLDER CITIZENS RECALLED BAD EXPERIENCE WHEN JAPANESE, LIKE SOME OF THEIR COLONIAL PREDECESSORS, HAD TAKEN PRIVATE LAND FOR PUBLIC USE WITHOUT COMPENSATION AND/BRUSK EVICTION OF OWNERS. I ^{WITH} STRESSED THAT, OF COURSE, SUCH MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE HAD NO PLACE IN OUR DEFINITION OR PRACTICE OF EMINENT DOMAIN AND THAT WE WERE WELL AWARE OF DESIRABILITY OF ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AS PROVIDED UNDER U.S. LAW. SANTOS ASSURED ME THAT THIS WAS UNDERSTOOD. I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT HIS RAISING OF THE SUBJECT INDICATES THE INTENSITY OF INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AS SHOWN IN THE COURSE OF THE TALKS, AND SUGGESTS NEED FOR OUR CONTINUED REASSURANCE OF CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH RIGHT IS EXERCISED.

11. (C) SANTOS SAID THAT HE AND SOME OTHER MPSC MEMBERS ^{WENT} ~~LEFT~~ TO TINIAN ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 31 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT OF MARIANAS IV. THE GROUP WAS MET BY HERMAN MANGLONA WHO NOT SURPRISINGLY WAS "SORE" AT

6

RESULT OF TALKS AND ASSERTED HE WAS GOING TO PURSUE THE MATTER WITH HIS ATTORNEY. SANTOS SAID THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD MADE POINT ON TINIAN THAT MPSC HAD MADE ITS DECISION FOR ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE MARIANAS. LAND, THEY HAD POINTED OUT, IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY HAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE U.S. REQUIREMENTS BECAUSE THEY HAD SERIOUSLY FELT THAT VOTE WAS FOR THE FUTURE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS AND THE STABILITY OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. THEY PLEADED FOR SETTING ASIDE PERSONAL INTERESTS. IN CONTRAST TO MANGLONA, SYLVESTER CRUZ, WHO HAD SIGNED THE ANTI-U.S. PETITION SOME WEEKS AGO, DID NOT APPEAR DISTURBED BY MARIANAS IV AND SHOWED NO INDICATION OF PRESSING ANY OPPOSITION. SANTOS WONDERED ALOUD IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME AS TO JUST WHAT ARE MANGLONA'S RESOURCES. HE HAS A FAMILY TO SUPPORT, SANTOS REMARKED, BUT NO VISIBLE MEANS OF INCOME.

13. (C) REFERRING TO THE JUNE 9 ELECTION FOR MAYOR OF TINIAN, SANTOS SAID SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE MENDIOLA "THINKS HE OWNS THE WHOLE ISLAND" AND HIS ATTITUDE CAN BE CHANGED ONLY WHEN HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IS NOT AFFECTED. TO MY COMMENT THAT IT SEEMED ODD IF MENDIOLA WERE GENERALLY UNPOPULAR THAT HE HAD WON THE ELECTION, SANTOS SAID SOMEWHAT CRYPTICALLY "WHEN YOU PASS OUT MONEY THE VOTE IS SURE." HE ADDED THAT THIS COMMENTS REFER TO SAIPAN AS WELL AS TO TINIAN. (COMMENT: SANTOS' COMMENT WAS SECOND INDICATION THAT VOTES HAD BEEN BOUGHT ON TINIAN. CONGRESSMAN ^{FELIPE} ~~FELIPE~~ ATALIG HAD TOLD ME EARLIER IN THE DAY IN WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN MOCK SHOCK, THAT "THEY" HAD ^{DISTRIBUTED} \$500.00 TO PUT MENDIOLA IN THE JOB.)

14. (C) SANTOS LOOKS FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO SIGNING THE AGREEMENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR. COMMENTING THAT BIGGEST PROBLEM IN NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN LAND ISSUE, HE DESCRIBED MPSC ^{PROCEDURE} ~~PURPOSE~~ OF REACHING DECISION ON THIS CRITICAL POINT. HE SAID ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN VERY "INTENSE" WHEN VOTE WAS TAKEN. VOTE WAS INDIVIDUAL, BY VOICE, "WITH HEADS DOWN."

031603

8
16) (C) SARIOS CONCLUDED HIS ACCOUNT WITH AN EMPHASIS ON HIS GRATIFICATION AT POPULAR REACTION IN THE MARIANAS TO THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS. "PEOPLE REALLY APPRECIATE WORK OF THE MPSC NOW." HE AGREED THAT THE FULLEST EXPLANATION, WITH TRANSLATION AS NECESSARY OF THE RESULTS AND MEANING OF MARIANAS IV WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO THE CONTINUING PREPARATION FOR ULTIMATE PLEBISCITE. HE ALSO SAID HE WAS GLAD TO NOTE A NEW TONE OF POSITIVE REACTION FROM AMERICANS IN THE DISTRICT.

18. (C) AS REFTTEL INDICATED, THERE IS A NEW SPIRIT HERE OF AWARENESS THAT THE MARIANAS NEGOTIATIONS ARE "FOR REAL" AND THAT A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S., WHICH WILL ENTAIL SEPARATION FROM THE REST OF MICRONESIA LIES AHEAD. JON ANDERSON'S COLUMN IN MARIANAS VARIETY OF JUNE 7 SUMS THIS UP. REFERRING TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE ANDERSON SAID "IT IS A FASCINATING DOCUMENT, REPRESENTING AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON NEARLY EVERY MAJOR POINT REMAINING IN THE PLAN TO MAKE THE MARIANAS A U.S. COMMONWEALTH. IT IS, I STRONGLY FEEL, A VIRTUAL BLUEPRINT OF WHAT THE FINAL DRAFT COVENANT WILL LOOK LIKE. . . . THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE SHOULD BE READ AND CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY BY THE LEADERSHIP IN THE OTHER DISTRICTS, PARTICULARLY BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. THEN PERHAPS THEY WILL ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER THE TIME HAS NOT AT LAST COME TO ADMIT WHAT HAS BEEN FAIRLY EVIDENT FOR SOME TIME--THAT IT IS FAR TOO LATE TO ENTERTAIN EVEN A FAINT HOPE OF BRINGING THE MARIANAS BACK INTO THE FOLD."

19. (C) GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS LAST POINT WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR RAPID PROGRESS IN JOINT NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL.

TRENT


031605